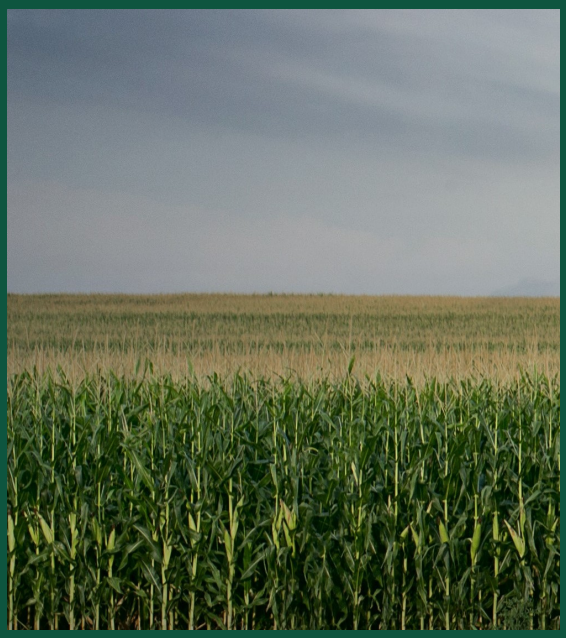
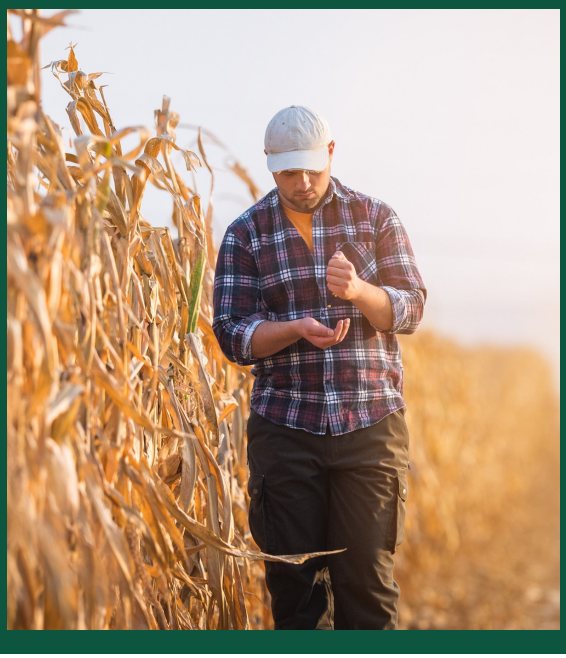




United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2021

ARMS DATA EXPLAIN ON-FARM MANAGMENT OF INPUTS, PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGY

Dan Lofthus
MN State Statistician, USDA NASS

The Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) is about to begin the next phase of data collection. This study, focusing on corn, is commissioned by the USDA's Economic Research Service and collected by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

This phase is a detailed description of fertilizer, pesticide, cropping practice, and technology management from a cross-section of corn farms in Minnesota and the U.S. Only 300 Minnesota operations are included in this year's study, about 1 out of 94 corn farms in the state. Updated farm-level corn management data is important to keep up with technology advancements and adoption so the results reflect current corn production trends.

As a farmer, you might cringe when you hear about another survey about pesticide and fertilizer use. Farmers have asked me, "Why is the USDA constantly asking famers about the pesticide and fertilizer use? Are they just trying to find a "problem" so they can add more restrictions?"

It's not about finding problems, it's about measuring progress. One of the biggest benefits from this project is describing how many different things farmers have implemented to successfully manage these fundamental and costly inputs. Farmers are under constant pressure to reduce cost so they have implemented technology and practices to best manage the use of pesticide and fertilizer on their land. This is an opportunity to brag about the things you have implemented on your farm.

Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS)

October - December, 2021

Purpose:

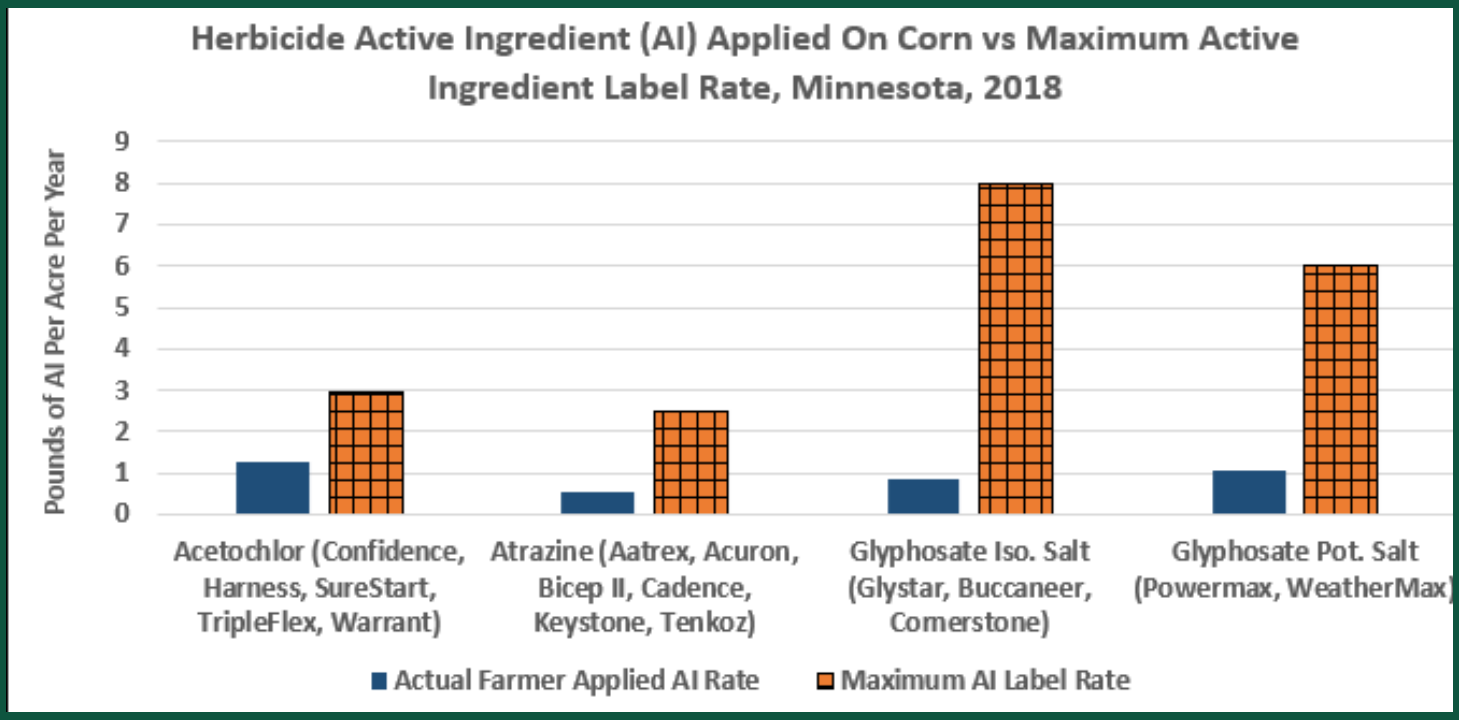
- Update corn pesticide, fertilizer and cropping practice management details as new technology is implemented, economics change and crop year details dictate adjustments to inputs.

MN Farms Sampled: 300, an average 1 out of every 94 farms with corn.

You might think it's risky to talk about how you use pesticide or fertilizer on your corn but the lack of real-life data is the true risk. In the absence of data, your critics, customers or the public will often assume the worst.

Herbicide active ingredient rates are a good example. The chart below demonstrates that the actual average active ingredient rate applied per acre of corn in 2018 was only a fraction of the assumed maximum allowable rates. It's critical that you, and organizations that represent you, have farm level data to demonstrate true application rates. Without data, it's very hard to convince others that assuming the worst just isn't accurate.

ARMS provides an objective look at these important topics and provides you an opportunity to contribute to the effort anonymously. Your farm information will be held in strict confidence. Only grand totals and averages, across all reports, will be published at the state and U.S. levels. If asked, please contribute to this effort and put accurate farm reported information in the hands of the people that work so hard to represent the corn industry.



Source: Ag Resource Managment Study 2018, Max AI Rates: http://www.cdms.net/label-database

More info

ARMS SURVEY RESOURCE LINKS

NASS

Economic Research Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Better Response = Better Data = Better Decisions